

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 7, 2003 has been carefully considered.

Claims 26 and 27 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, and claim 26 has been amended to correct the error pointed out in the Office Action. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 21 and 22 have been found to be allowable over the art.

Claim 8 has now been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 11, as has claim 26. Claim 11 has been amended to delete the originally claimed subject matter which was incorporated into claim 8, and to claim a further aspect of the invention.

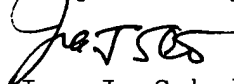
In addition, the amendment has rendered claim 15 redundant, and claim 15 has been canceled. The dependency of claim 16 has been changed to claim 14.

Other minor amendments have been made to improve claim language.

Based upon the above amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of record under 35 USC 103 is requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of the application with amended claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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